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THE WORLD'S MOST WAY PAST COOL COMIC!

SONIC

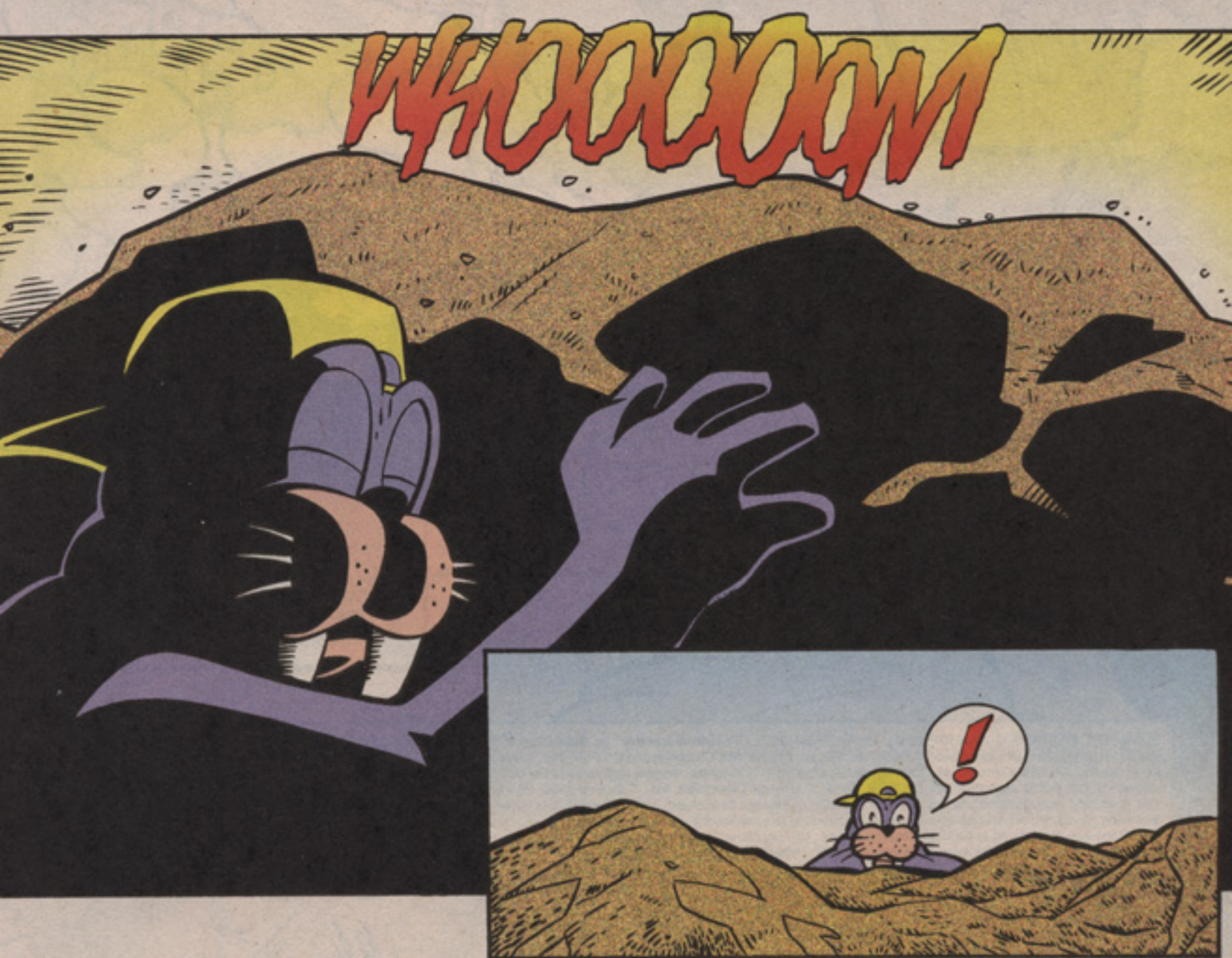
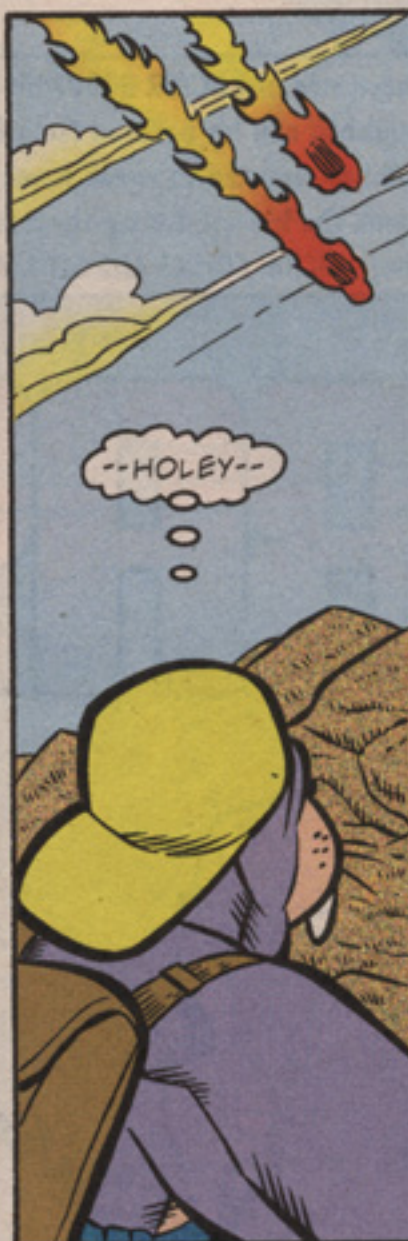
APPROVED
BY THE
COMICS
CODE
AUTHORITY

THE HEDGEHOG



DIRECT EDITION

SPAZ
PENDERS



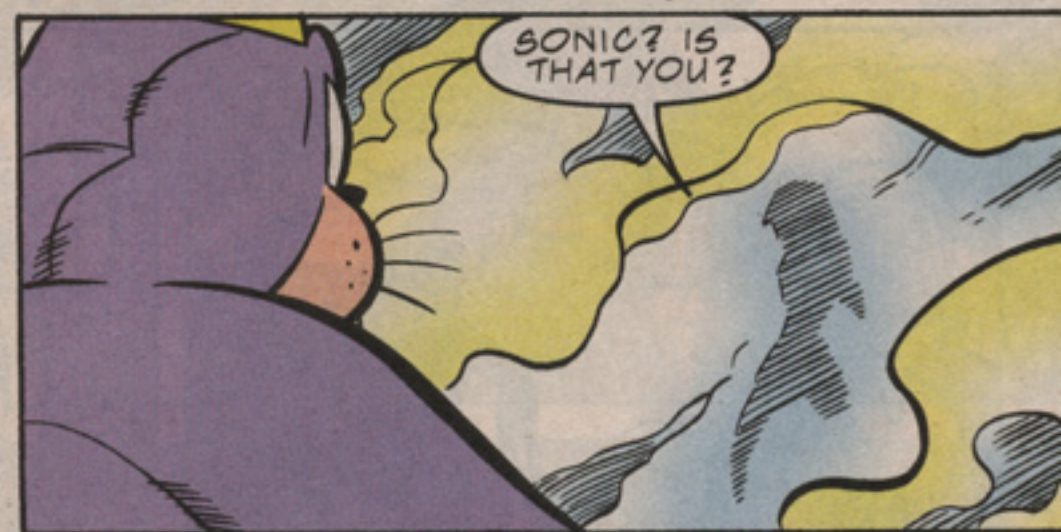
After ten long years, the iron-fisted rule of DOCTOR ROBOTNIK over planet MOBIUS was believed to have finally ended! With the technological tyrant vanquished and his polluted factories shut down, order and beauty were restored to the city of MOBOTROPOLIS. Now the villain has returned to wreak havoc once more, but there are many who are willing to stand against him in the fight for freedom. The bravest among them is a brash, blue streak who just happens to be the fastest thing alive! ARCHIE COMICS AND SEGA PRESENT... SONIC THE HEDGEHOG!

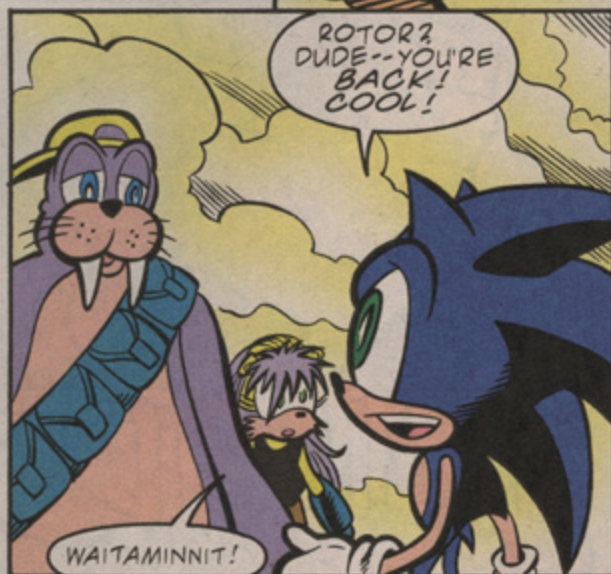
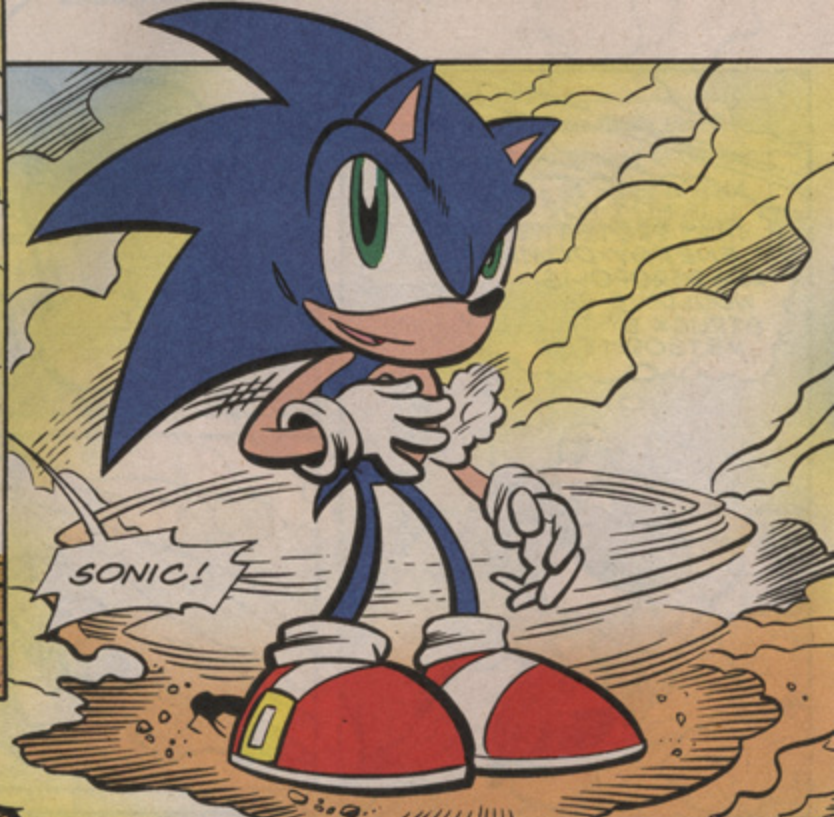
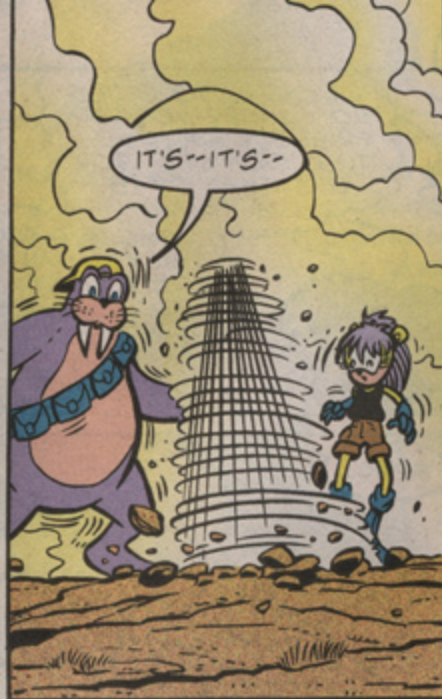
CRASH!

WOW!

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SONIC THE HEDGEHOG (ISSN:10705090), No. 91, Feb., 2001. Published monthly by Archie Comic Publications, Inc., 325 Fayette Avenue, Mamaroneck, NY 10543-2318. Richard H. Goldwater, President and Co-Publisher, Michael I. Silberkelt, Chairman and Co-Publisher. Single copies \$1.99 in the U.S.; \$2.19 in Canada. Subscription rate: U.S. \$23.88 for 12 issues; \$26.28 in Canada. All Canadian orders payable in U.S. funds. Sega is registered in the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office. Sega, Sonic The Hedgehog and all related characters and indicia are trademarks of SEGA. Sega of America Dreamcast, Inc., P.O. Box 7654, San Francisco, CA 94120-7654. Copyright © 2000 SEGA. All Rights Reserved. The product is manufactured under a license from Sega of America Dreamcast, Inc. Any similarities between characters, names, persons, and/or institutions in this book and any living, dead, or fictional characters, names, persons, and/or institutions are not intended and if they exist, are purely coincidental. Periodicals postage paid at the post office at Mamaroneck, New York and at additional mailing offices. Title registered in U.S. patent office. POSTMASTER, send address changes to SONIC THE HEDGEHOG, c/o Archie Comic Publications, Inc., 325 Fayette Avenue, Mamaroneck, NY 10543-2318. Printed in Canada



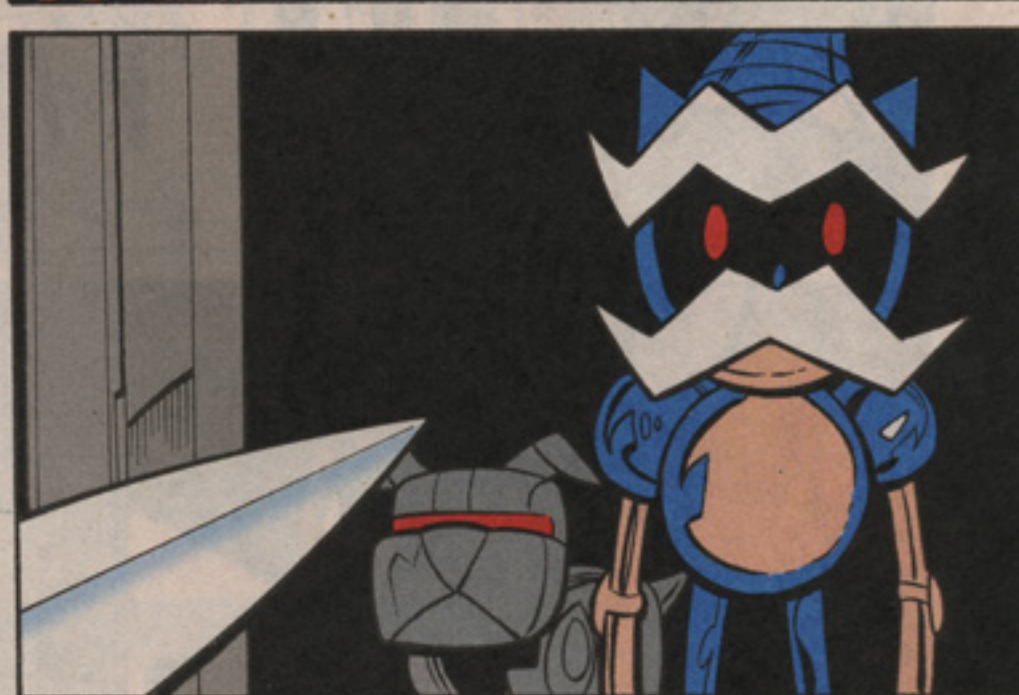
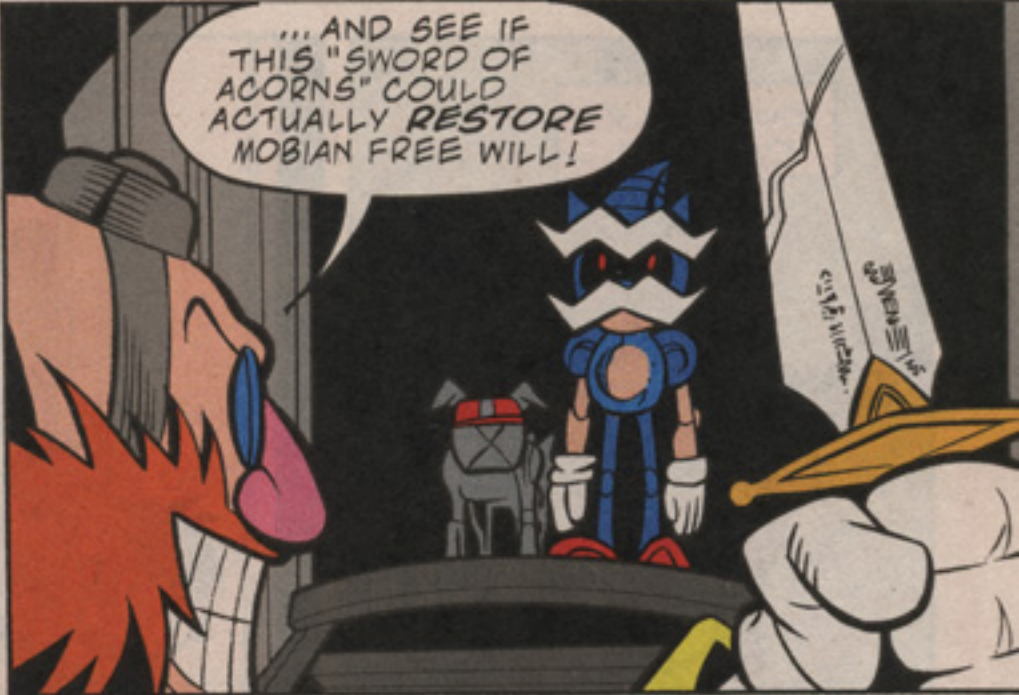


DOCTOR ROBOTNIK'S
BASE...

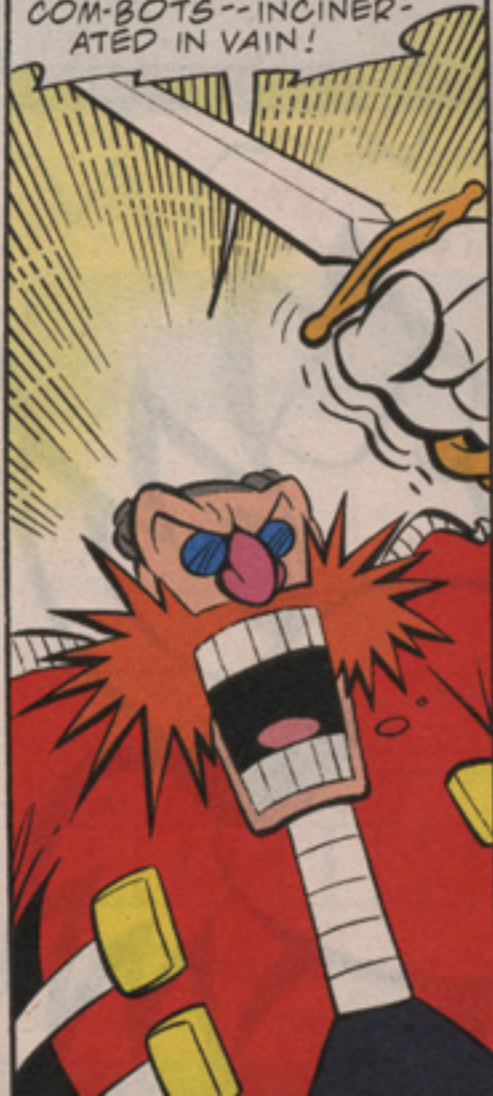
NOW THAT THOSE
METEORITES HAVE
FALLEN--AND KILLED
SONIC TO BOOT-- I CAN
SHUT OFF MY ENERGY-
SHELL...



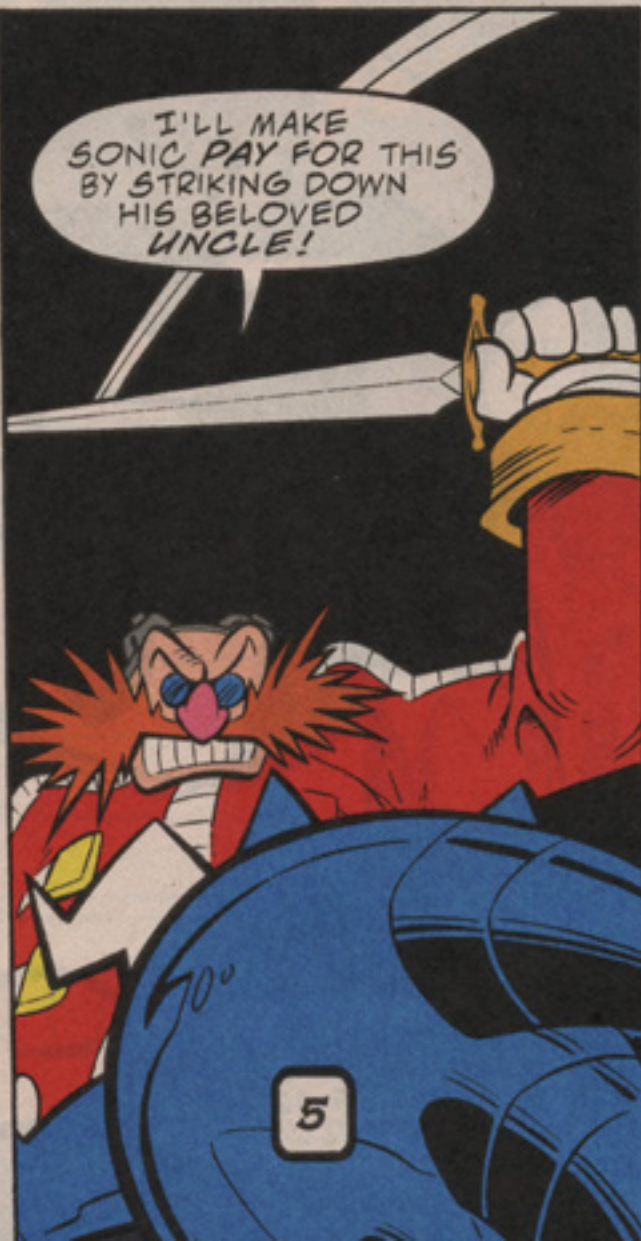
...AND SEE IF
THIS "SWORD OF
ACORNS" COULD
ACTUALLY RESTORE
MOBIAN FREE WILL!



AAARRRGGGHH!
USELESS! IT'S USE-
LESS! MY PRECIOUS
COM-BOTS--INCINER-
ATED IN VAIN!

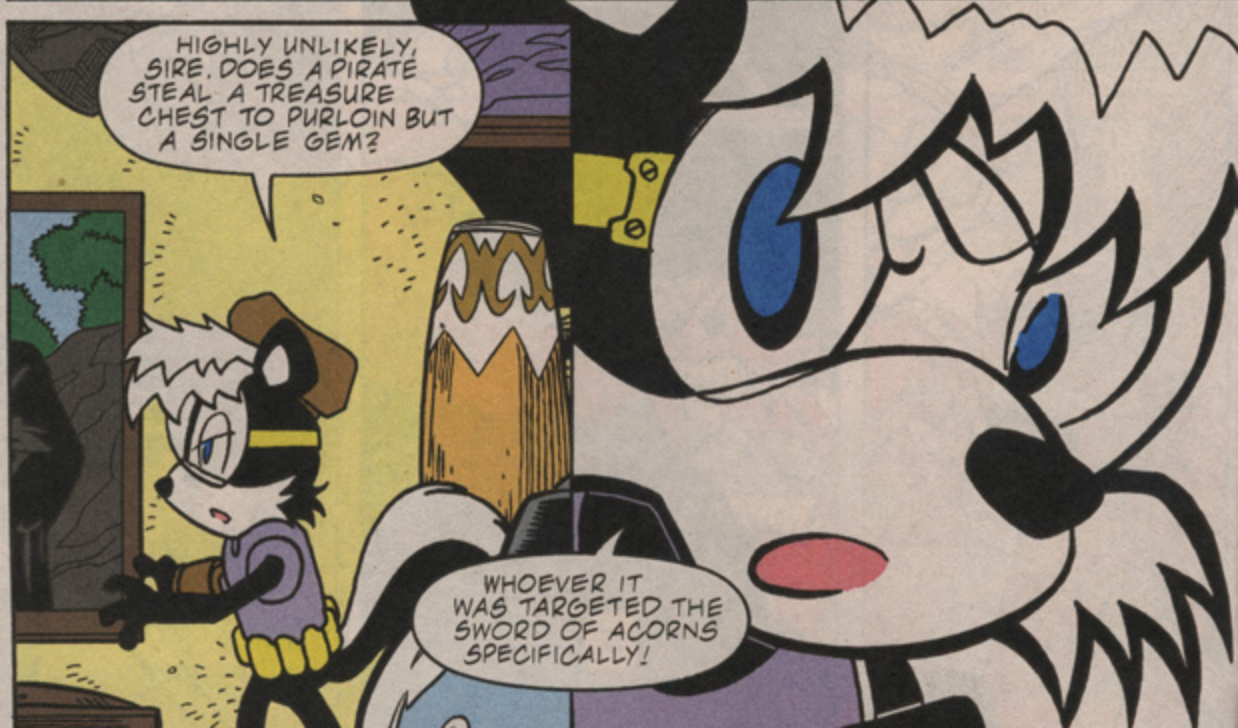
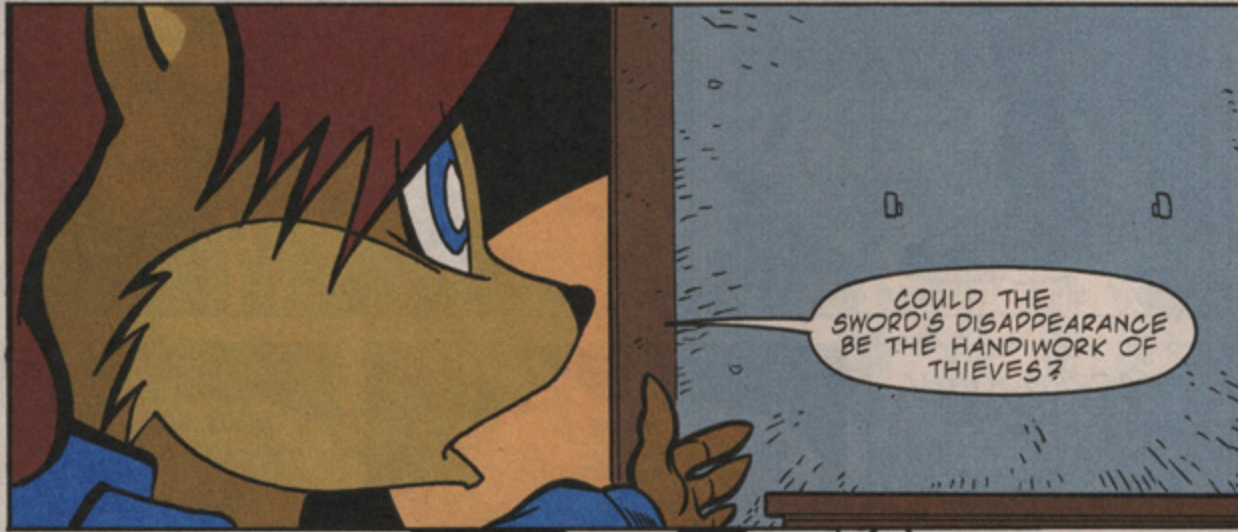
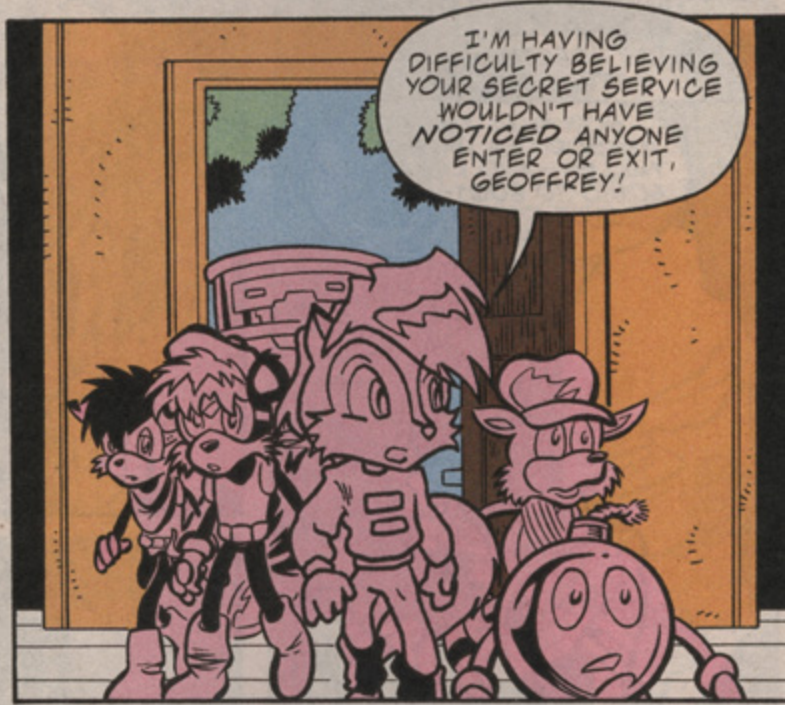


I'LL MAKE
SONIC PAY FOR THIS
BY STRIKING DOWN
HIS BELOVED
UNCLE!



BAH! IT'S
UNGRATIFYING
IF HE'S NOT HERE
TO SEE ME
DO IT!







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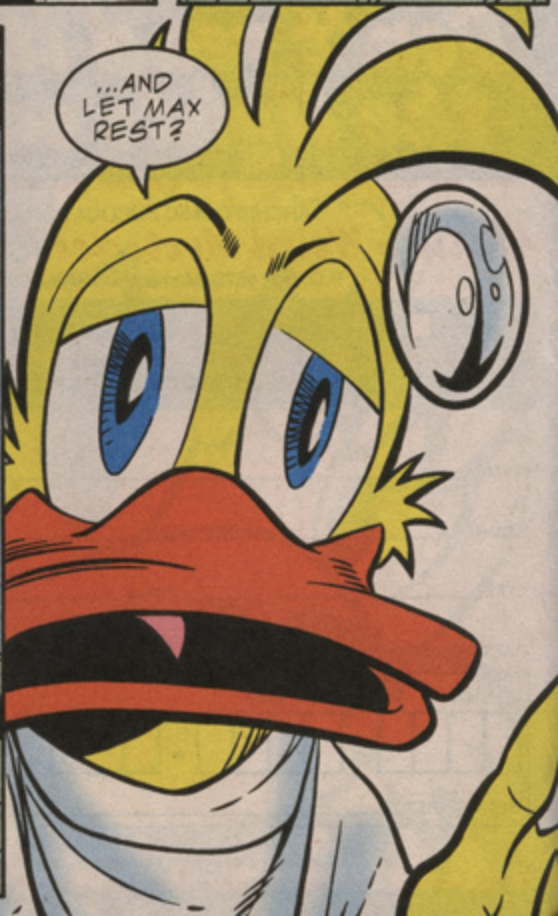
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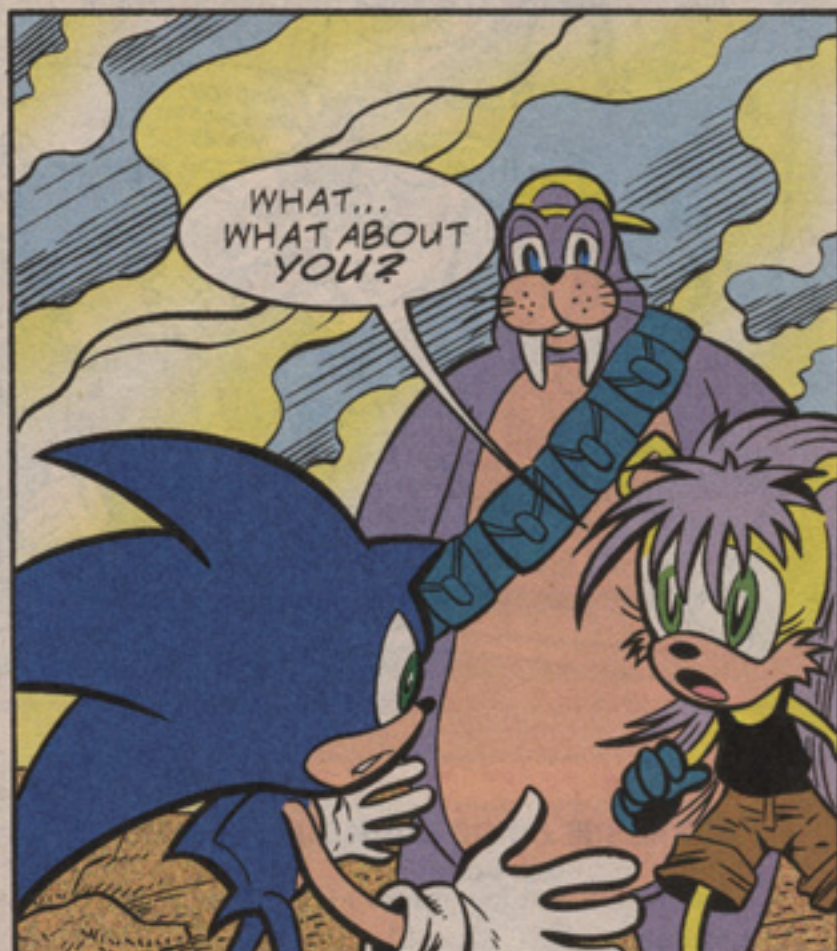
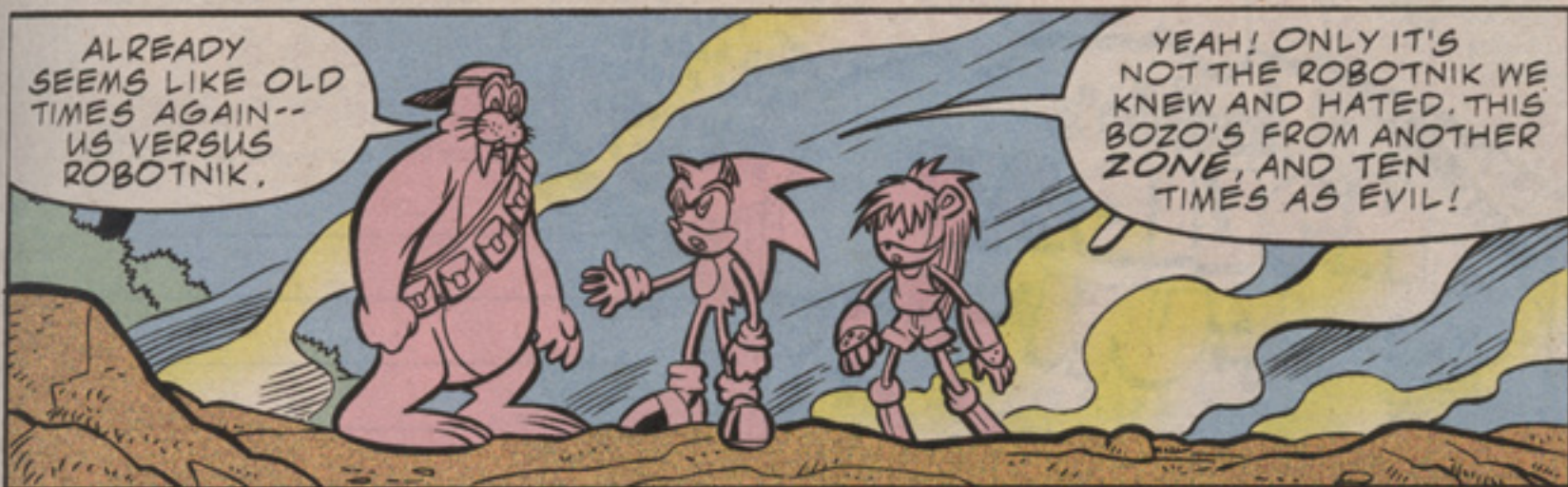
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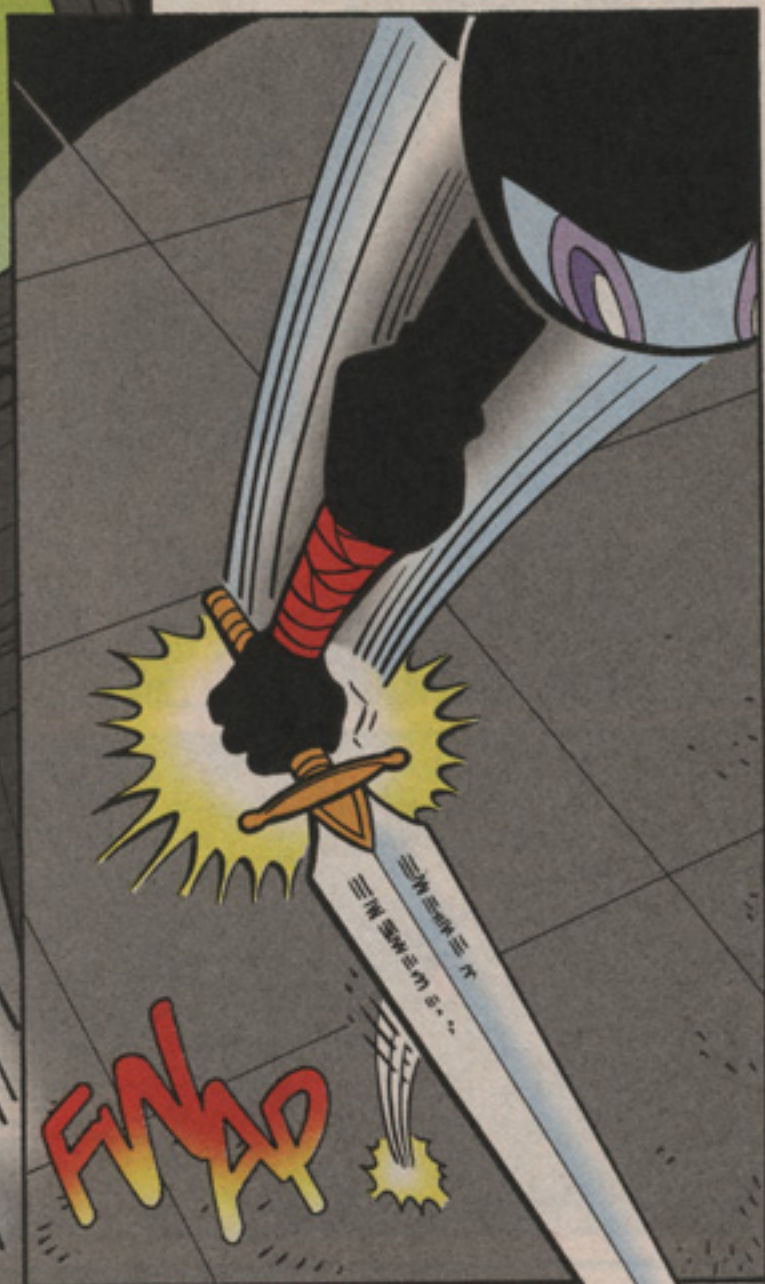


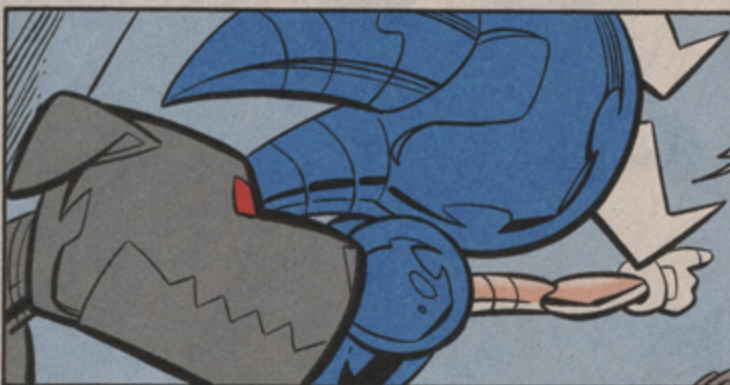
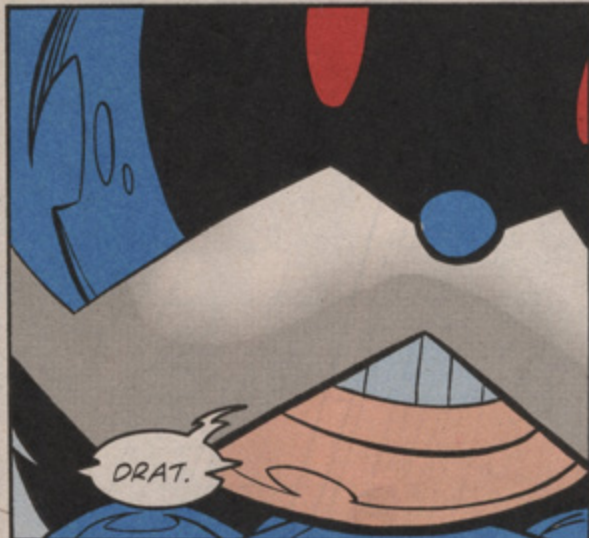
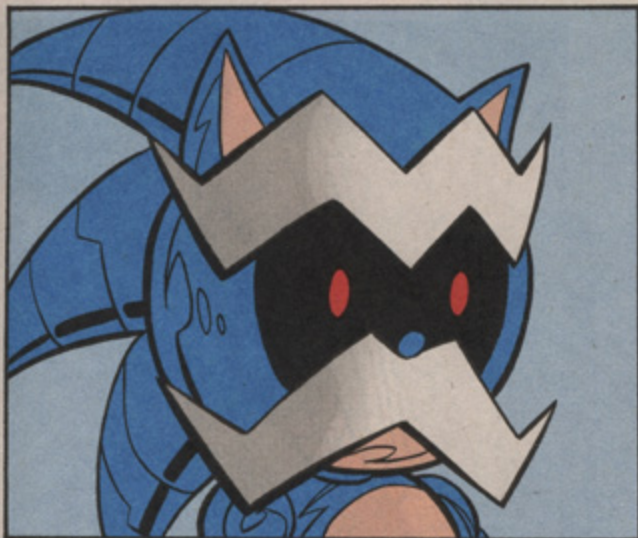
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*Based on the
animated TV show.*









COULDN'T RISK TRYING TO STOP ARACHNIS FROM STEALING THE SWORD, MUTTSKI. WOULD'VE CAUSED A COMMOTION...

...AND ROBOTNIK WOULD'VE LEARNED WE'RE NOT UNDER HIS CONTROL ANYMORE. PROBABLY BETTER THAT SHE'S GOT IT...

...OR HE MIGHT'VE TESTED IT ON ANOTHER ROBBIAN AND LEARNED THAT IT RESTORES FREE WILL.



IN THE MEANTIME, WE'LL CONTINUE OUR ACT UNTIL--



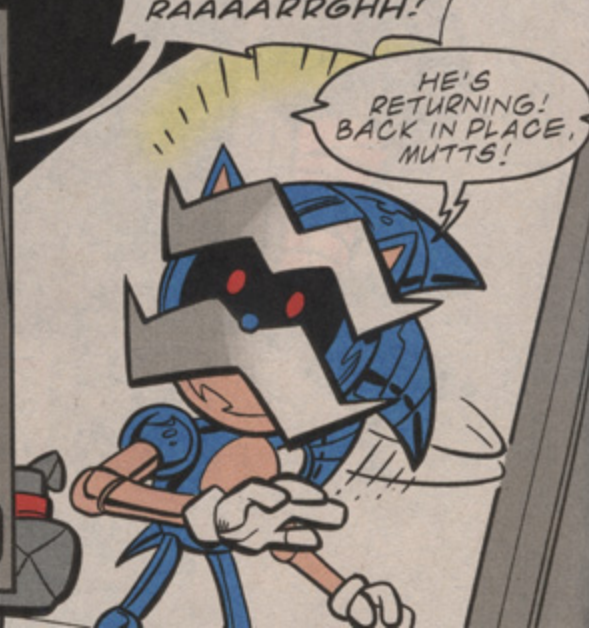
LOOK, ON THE SCREENS! IT'S SONIC-- AND FROM THE LOOK OF IT, HE'S NOT GIVING UP WITHOUT A FIGHT!

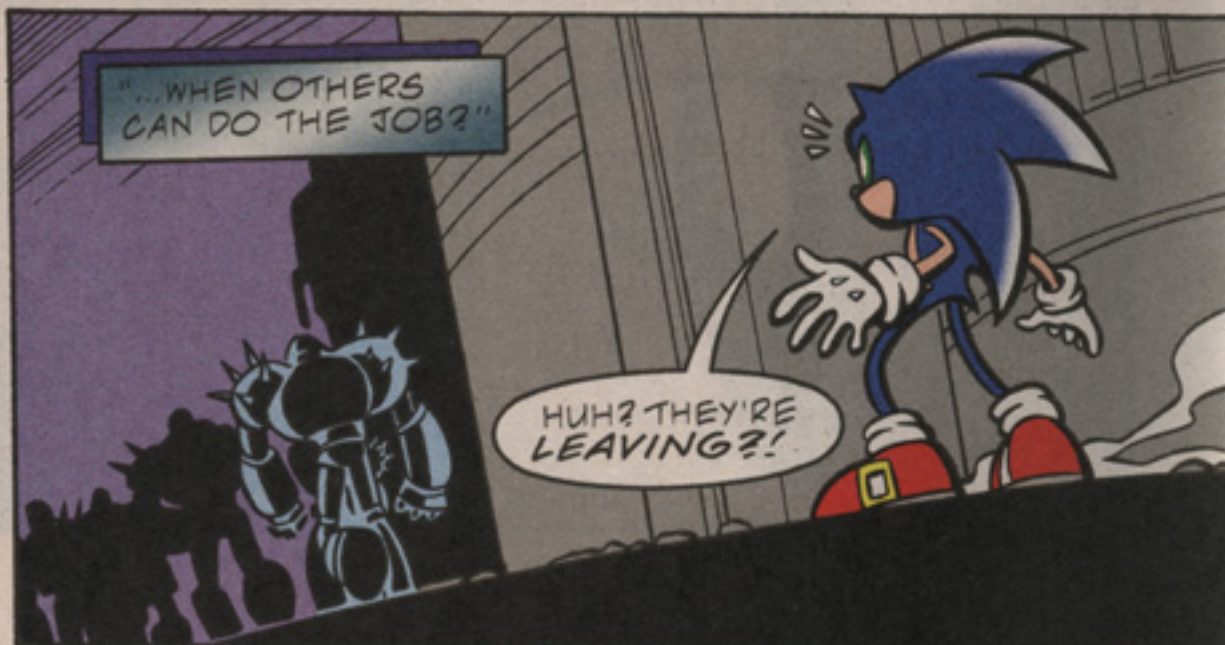
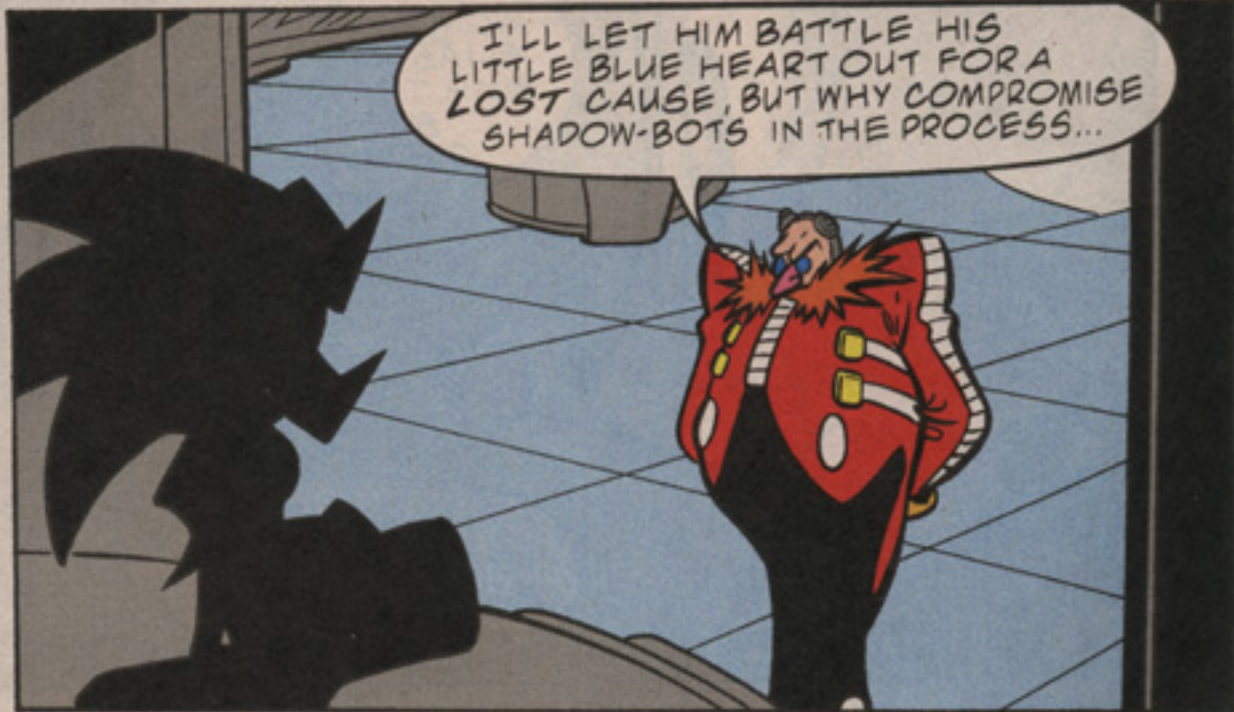
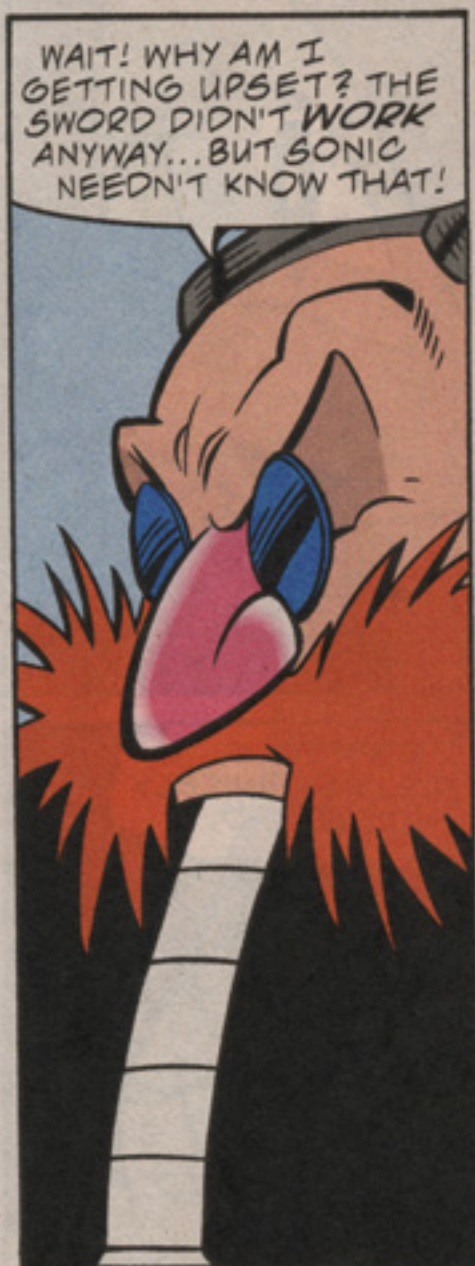
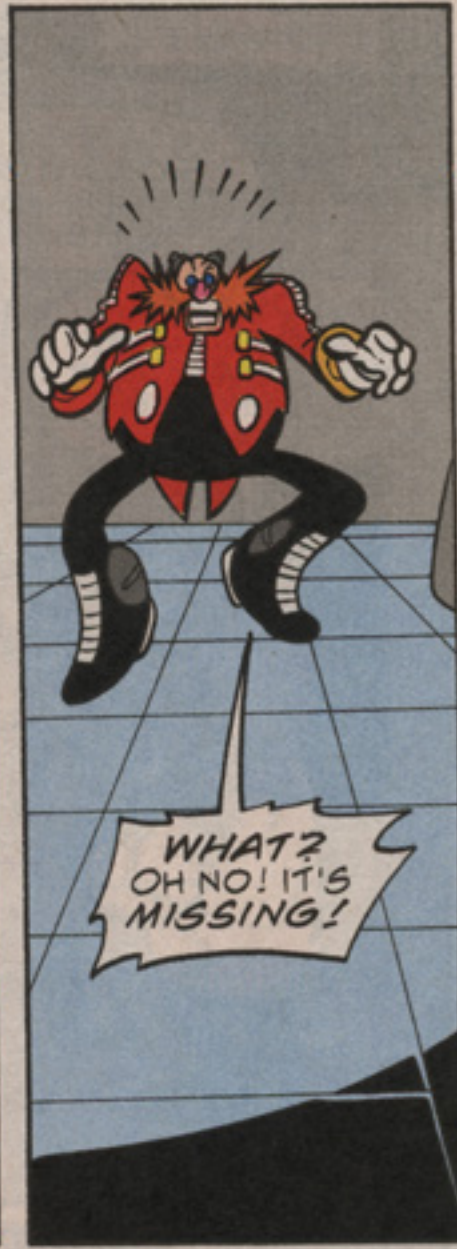
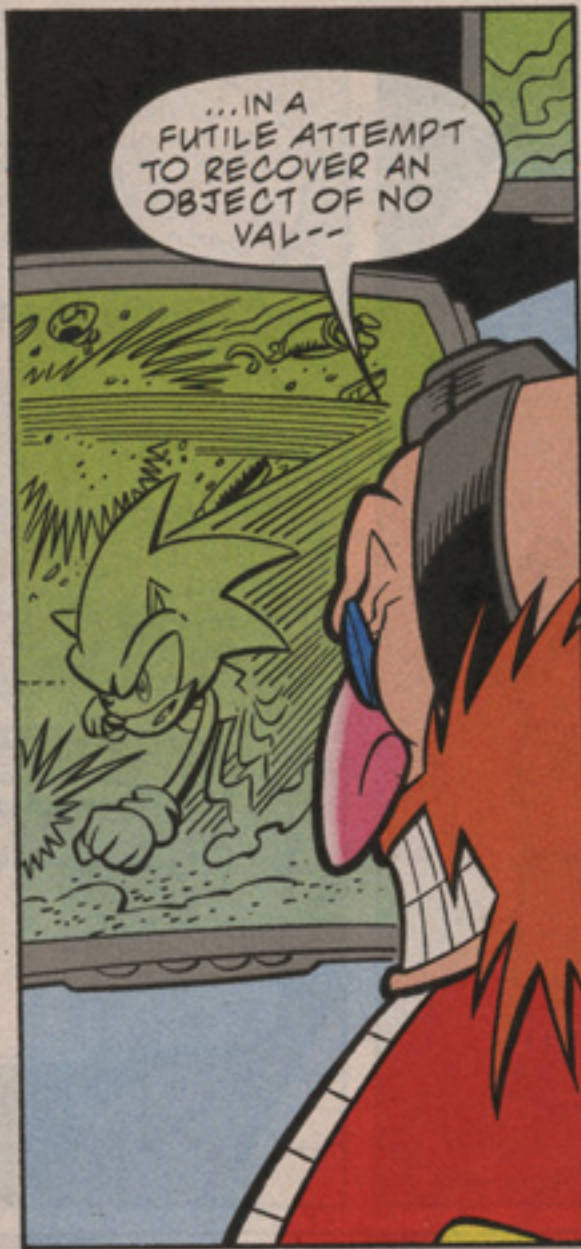
RAAAARRGHH!

ATTABOY, SONNY--



HE'S RETURNING! BACK IN PLACE, MUTTS!





KNOTHOLE...

I NEVER
THOUGHT I'D
SEE YOU AGAIN,
NATE ...

NOR I YOU,
QUEEN ALICIA, BUT
WE'LL HAVE TIME
TO REMINISCE
LATER...

...RIGHT NOW,
I THINK YOU AND
THE PRINCESS
HAVE SOME
CATCHING UP TO
DO!

HE'S RIGHT,
SALLY, BUT IS
SOMETHING
TROUBLING
YOU? YOUR
FATHER?

YES...

...PLUS
WONDERING HOW
ELIAS IS DOING
WITH THAT MISSING
SWORD
BUSINESS.

I'M CERTAIN
HE'S DOING JUST
FINE--HE WAS
BORN TO IT!

BORN TO IT,
YES, BUT DEFINITELY
NOT **BRED**.

ELSEWHERE...

SO EVERYBODY RELOCATED HERE AFTER ROBOTNIK INVADED?

YEP.

IT'S NICE BEING BACK.

I GUESS...

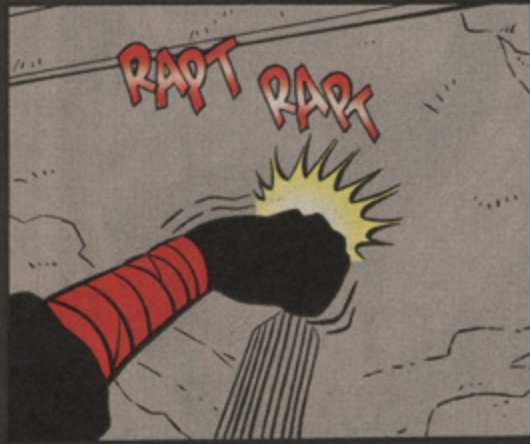
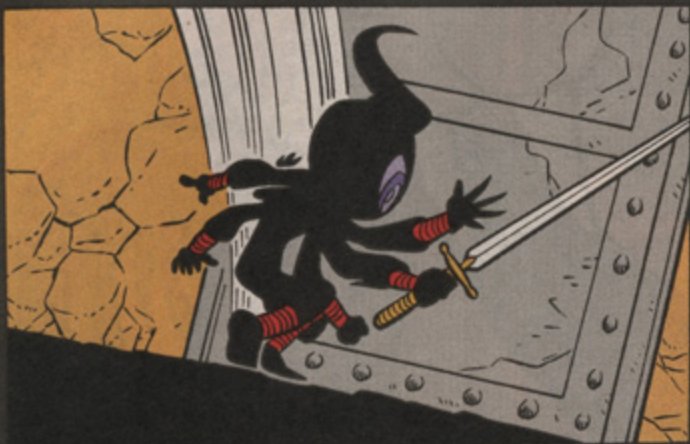
SAY, ARE YOU A NEW FREEDOM FIGHTER?

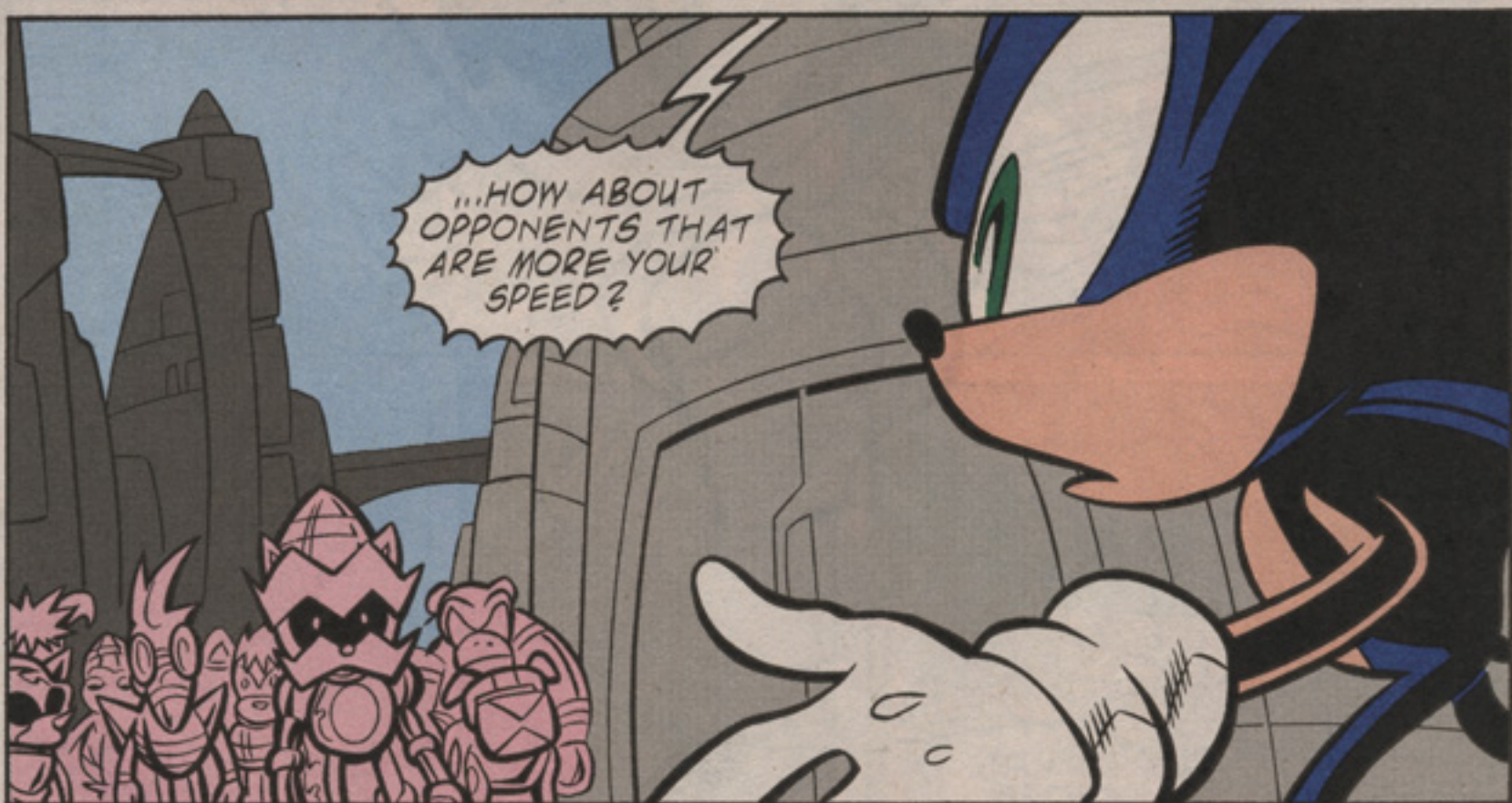
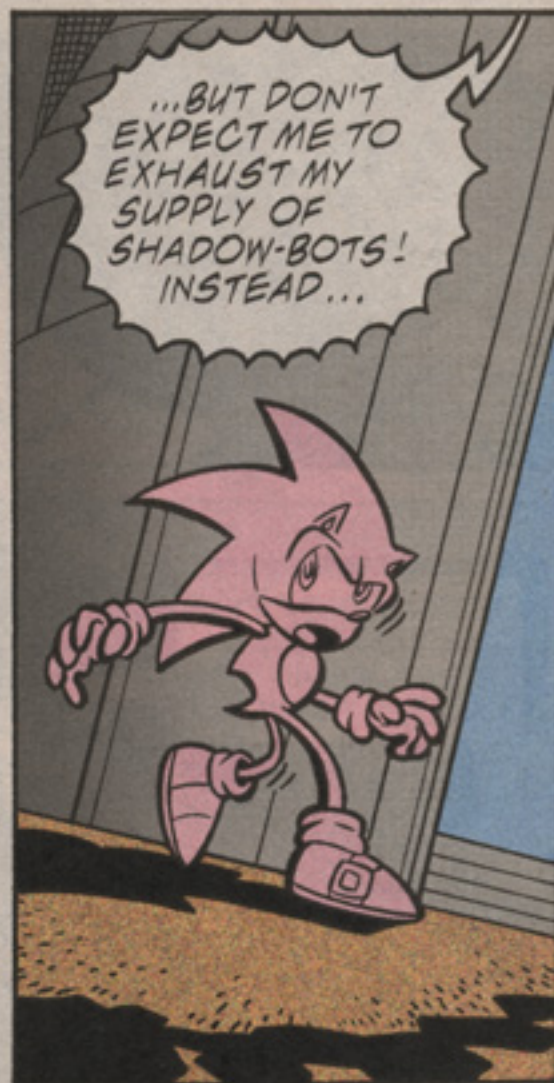
GET OUTTA TOWN -- I'M JUST A **BABY-SITTER!**

THEN, I DON'T UNDERSTAND WHY YOU WERE WITH SON--

LOOK GEOFFREY! ROTOR'S RETURNED...

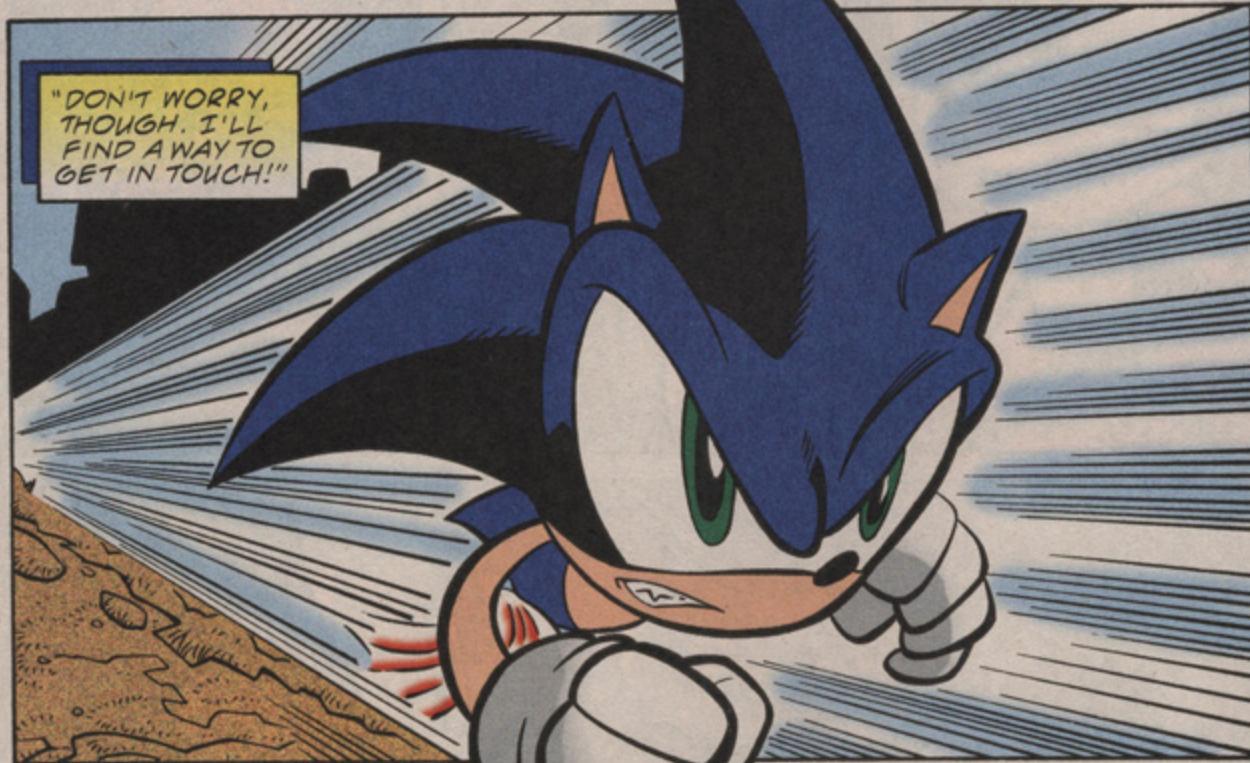
BENEATH THE STREETS
OF ROBOTROPOLIS...







SORRY, SONNY-BOY--
I COULD JUST GO WITH YOU,
BUT SOMEONE'S GOTTA KEEP
AN EYE ON ROBOTNIK!



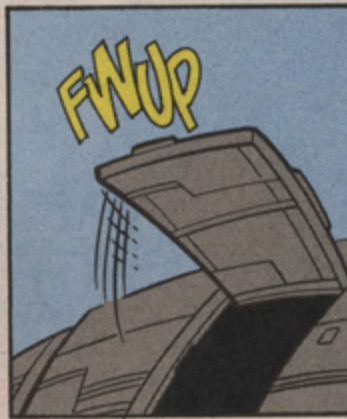
"DON'T WORRY,
THOUGH. I'LL
FIND A WAY TO
GET IN TOUCH!"



OH MAN!
THOSE
METEORITES
WEREN'T
METEORITES
AT ALL!
THEY'RE...
THEY'RE...



FWUP



FWUP



NOW THIS
I DON'T
BELIEVE!

TO BE
CONTINUED!

Join Sonic and his friends in the ultimate party game!

SONIC SHUFFLE



EVERYONE
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Born to the most noble of Echidna houses, the latest to continue the family heritage and responsibility as Guardian of The Floating Island, defender of all against the forces of evil from the world beyond as well as those who would threaten from within!

ARCHIE COMICS AND SEGA PRESENT... KNUCKLES THE ECHIDNA!

THE SETTING... A WATERING HOLE OF ILL REPUTE!
THE TIME... PRESENT DAY MOBIAN DAYLIGHT
SAVINGS! WHAT'S GOING ON... NEED YOU ASK?

...THEN THERE WAS
THE JOB I WAS ESPECIALLY
PROUD OF!

FASTEST SUCKER
YOU EVER SAW!

A BLUE
HEDGEHOG,
HE WAS!

BUT HE HADN'T
EVER RUN INTO NACK
THE WEASEL
BEFORE!

NEITHER
HAVE I!

YOU SHOULD
COME AROUND MORE
OFTEN!

KEN PENDERS- WRITER STEVEN BUTLER-PENCILER
PAM EKLUND- INKER VICKIE WILLIAMS- LETTERER
FRANK GAGLIARDO- COLORIST
JUSTIN GABRIE- EDITOR



IF I FIND
THE RODENT
WHAT DID THIS,
I'LL GLT
'IM WHERE HE
STANDS!

WRONG
GENDER--



--AND
I'D LIKE
TO SEE YOU
TRY!

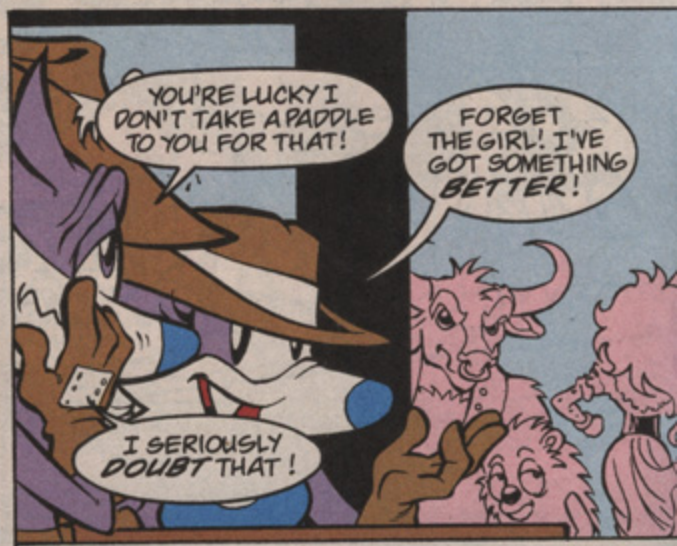
NIC!!



YOU NEVER
SAID ANYTHING
ABOUT BEING
MARRIED!

WHAT
SORT OF
GIRL DO YOU
THINK I
AM?

BUT I'M NOT--
OOW!!



YOU'RE LUCKY I
DON'T TAKE A PADDLE
TO YOU FOR THAT!

FORGET
THE GIRL! I'VE
GOT SOMETHING
BETTER!

I SERIOUSLY
DOUBT THAT!



WE'VE
BEEN HIRED FOR
A JOB!

"WE?" I WORK
SOLO!

IF I COULD
DO THIS ALONE,
I WOULDN'T BE HERE,
EITHER!

WHO'S THE
CATCH?



HIM!

AND THE
REWARD IS
A KING'S
RANSOM!

SO, ARE
YOU IN OR
OUT?



SOMETHING'S NOT
RIGHT, SIS!

THE ECHIDNAS AREN'T
RENOUNDED FOR INVOLVING
OUTSIDERS WITH THEIR
INTERNAL AFFAIRS!

SOMEONE'S
HOLDIN' OUT ON YOU
BIG TIME!

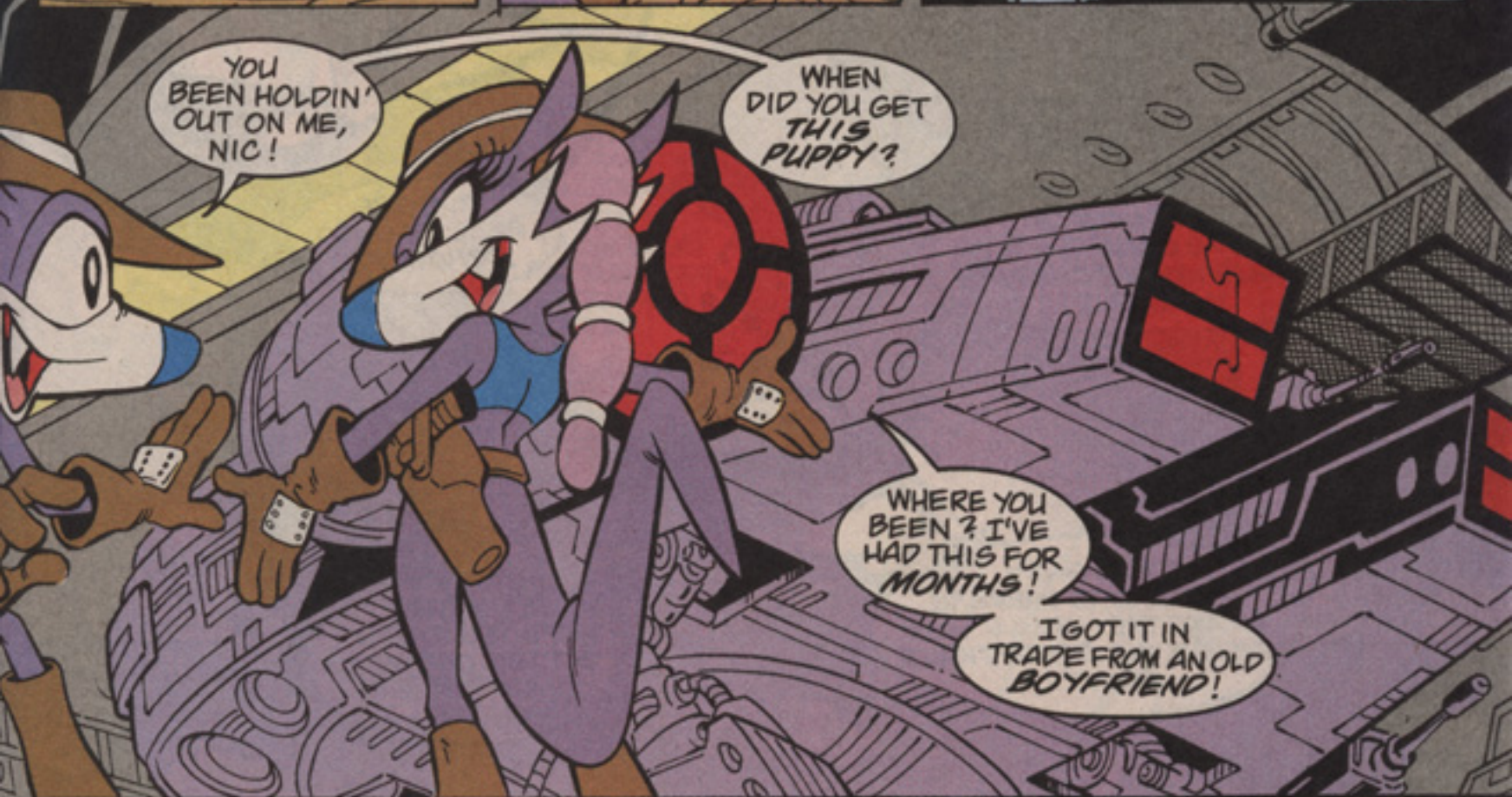


WHAT JOB
DOESN'T
COME WITH A
BIT OF RISK,
BRO'?



NONE I
EVER TOOK ON,
THAT'S FOR
SURE!

SO,
WHAT ARE WE
WAITIN'
FOR?

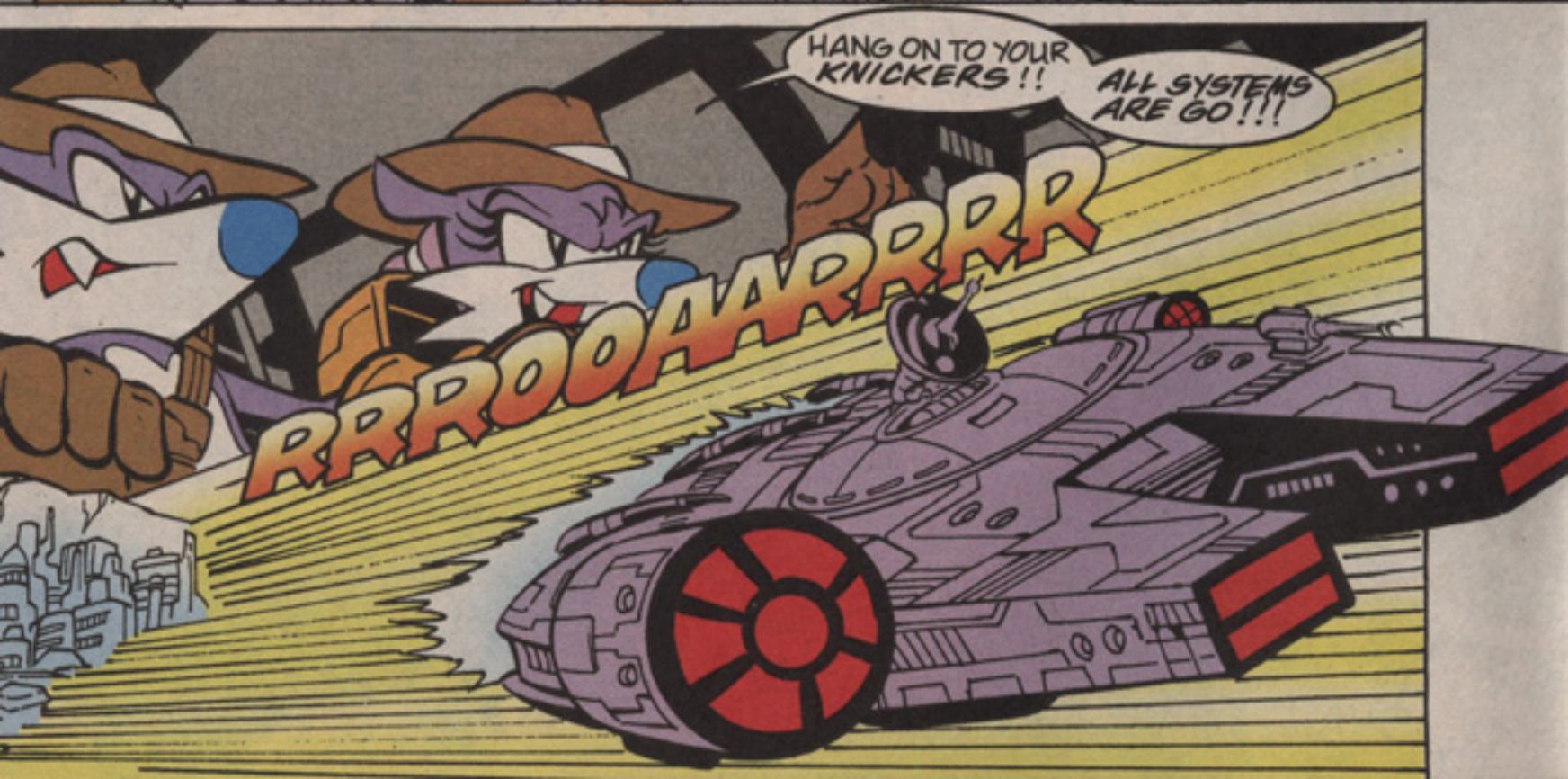


YOU
BEEN HOLDIN'
OUT ON ME,
NIC!

WHEN
DID YOU GET
THIS
PUPPY?

WHERE YOU
BEEN? I'VE
HAD THIS FOR
MONTHS!

I GOT IT IN
TRADE FROM AN OLD
BOYFRIEND!



HANG ON TO YOUR
KNICKERS!!

ALL SYSTEMS
ARE GO!!!

RRROOARRRR

JUST ONE QUESTION--

--YOU SURE THIS IS THE WAY TO THE FLOATING ISLAND?

WE'RE NOT GOING THERE!

WE'RE NOT?!

BUT--

THE ISLAND'S NOT THE ONLY PLACE ON MOBIUS WHERE ECHIDNAS HANG OUT!

I WAS GIVEN DIRECTIONS WHERE TO GO AND THEY WOULD TAKE OVER AT THE RENDEZVOUS POINT!

SINCE WHEN?

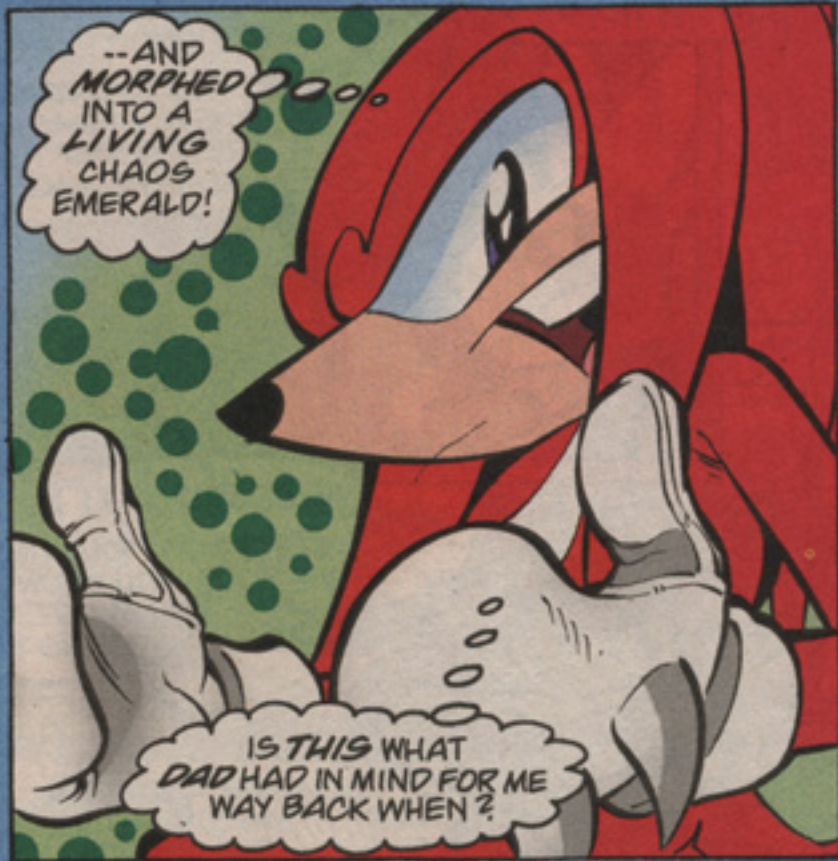
LIKE FOREVER! AT LEAST THAT'S WHAT THEY TOLD ME!

THEY'RE REAL BIG INTO PRIVACY!

LET'S JUST HOPE YOU HAVEN'T BITTEN OFF MORE THAN YOU CAN HANDLE!

WEIRD!

GOT A BAD FEELING ALL OF A SUDDEN!



TO BECOME LIKE
DIMITRI?

WHAT A
PLAN!!

HATE TO
THINK WHAT
DAD'S OTHER
OPTIONS
WERE!

I JUST HOPE
THERE'S SOME ANSWERS
BACK ON THE FLOATING
ISLAND--

HIRED GUNS



"...WHEREVER
IT IS!"

I DON'T GET IT!

THE COORDINATES
THE ECHIDNAS GAVE ME
ARE BEYOND THE ISLAND
WE'RE PASSING OVER!

MAYBE IT'S A
TEST TO SEE IF
YOU'RE WORTH
THE MONEY!

BA-DHOOOM!

WE'RE BUCKING!

YOU SURE
YOU KNOW HOW
TO PILOT THIS
THING?!

I'M NOT
DOING ANY-
THING!!!

THE
GUIDANCE
SYSTEM HAS
GONE AUTO-
MATIC!!

YOU SURE
YOU KNOW WHAT
YOU'RE DEALING
WITH, NIC?!

AT THIS
POINT, I'M NOT
SO SURE!

HEY! THAT
HUNK'A DIRT
WASN'T THERE
A SECOND
AGO!

ATTENTION, BOUNTY-
ONE!! THIS IS ALBION
FLIGHT CONTROL!!

WE
HAVE ASSUMED
CONTROL OF YOUR
VEHICLE--

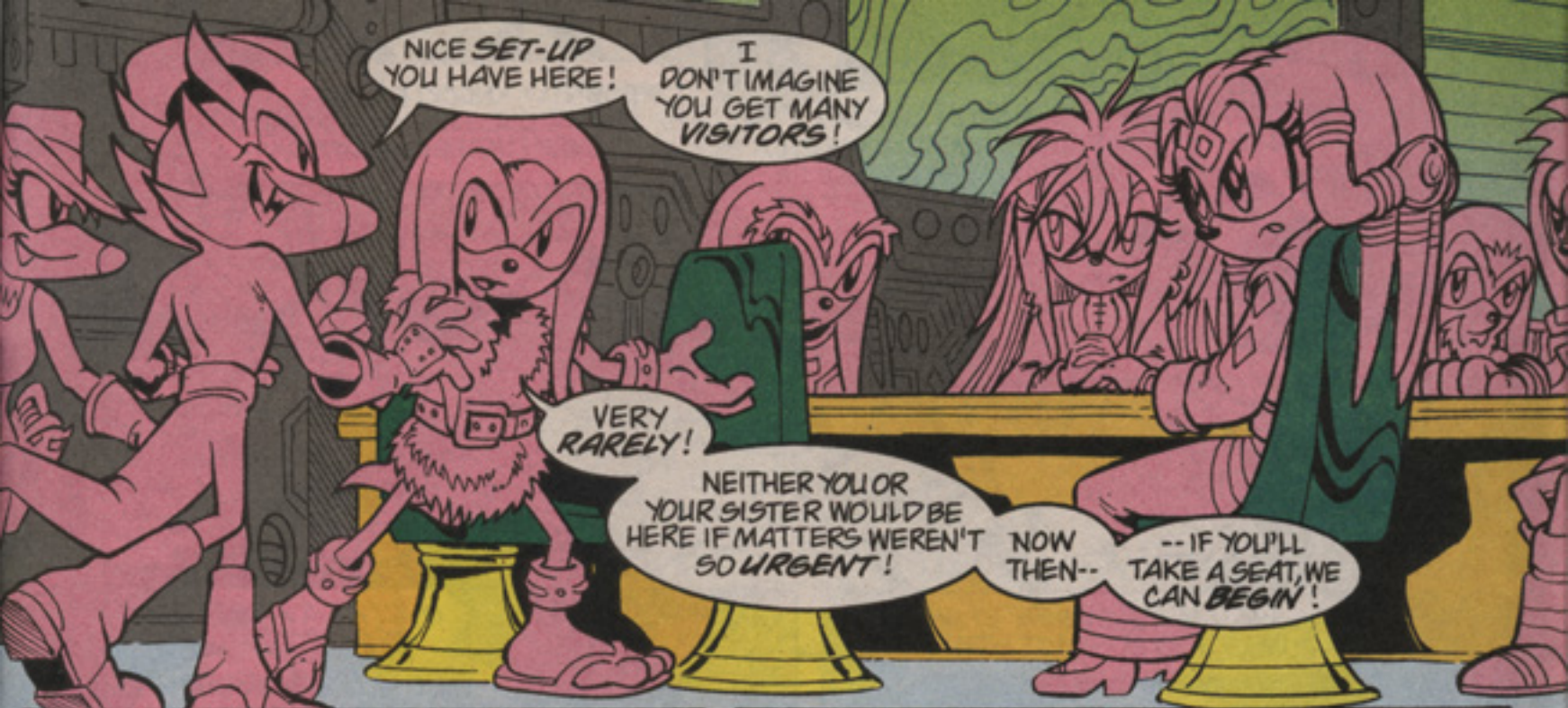
--AND ARE NOW
SENDING THE DATA INTO
YOUR SYSTEM TO BRING YOU
IN NICE AND SMOOTH!

HAPPY LANDINGS--
AND WELCOME TO
ALBION!

RIGHT ON
THE MONEY!
THESE GUYS
DON'T MESS
AROUND!

JUST
REMEMBER, THEY
CAME TO ME
FIRST!

WHOOOSH!



NICE SET-UP
YOU HAVE HERE!

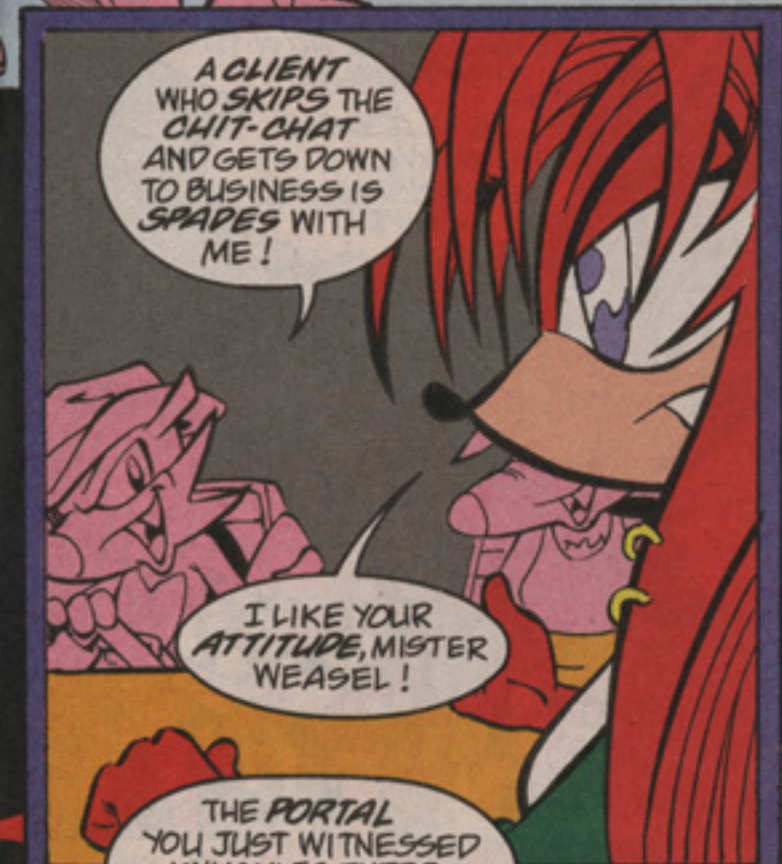
I
DON'T IMAGINE
YOU GET MANY
VISITORS!

VERY
RARELY!

NEITHER YOU OR
YOUR SISTER WOULD BE
HERE IF MATTERS WEREN'T
SO URGENT!

NOW
THEN--

-- IF YOU'LL
TAKE A SEAT, WE
CAN BEGIN!



A CLIENT
WHO SKIPS THE
CHIT-CHAT
AND GETS DOWN
TO BUSINESS IS
SPADES WITH
ME!

I LIKE YOUR
ATTITUDE, MISTER
WEASEL!

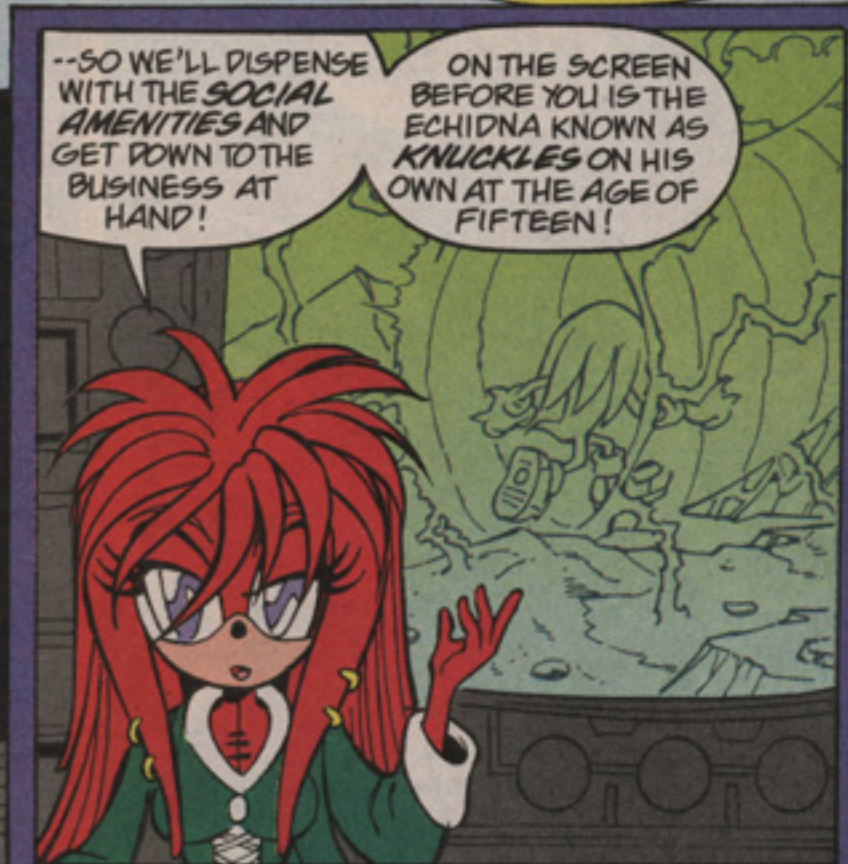
THE PORTAL
YOU JUST WITNESSED
KNUCKLES ENTER
WAS NOT ARTIFICIALLY
CREATED--

-- BUT
RATHER SELF-
GENERATED!



THIS WAS
THE FIRST TIME
WE KNOW OF WHERE
HE MANIFESTED SUCH
ABILITIES!

MONTHS LATER,
KNUCKLES WAS TAKEN
CAPTIVE AND
SUBJECTED
TO SOME UNUSUAL
TESTS--



--SO WE'LL DISPENSE
WITH THE SOCIAL
AMENITIES AND
GET DOWN TO THE
BUSINESS AT
HAND!

ON THE SCREEN
BEFORE YOU IS THE
ECHIDNA KNOWN AS
KNUCKLES ON HIS
OWN AT THE AGE OF
FIFTEEN!



-- WITH
UNEXPECTED
RESULTS!

KNUCKLES' LATENT
ABILITIES WERE NOW FULLY
ACTIVE, EVEN THOUGH HE
WAS NOT COGNIZANT OF
THAT FACT!

RECENTLY, KNUCKLES LEFT
US, UNDER CIRCUMSTANCES WHICH
HASTENED FURTHER MUTATION--

--MAKING HIM A DANGER TO ANY HE
COMES INTO CONTACT WITH!

SO, ARE
YOU ASKING US
TO TAKE HIM
OUT?

ONLY AS A LAST
RESORT!

WE'D MUCH PREFER
HE BE RETURNED TO US
SO WE CAN DEAL WITH
HIS PROBLEM!

WE'LL DOUBLE
THE BONUS IF YOU
DO BRING HIM BACK
ALIVE!

THINK THEY'RE
UP TO THE TASK,
GALA-NA?

THEY'RE
JUST THE
SMOKESCREEN,
MYKOL!

ONCE
THEY LEAD
US TO
KNUCKLES--

--ONLY
THEN WILL WE
DIRTY OUR
HANDS!

NEXT: THE BIG CAT
AND MOUSE! (--WHERE
NOTHING IS AS IT SEEMS!)

ADIOS
MUCHACHOS
STUBBED
BUTTER
-00-

SONIC-GRAMS

Next issue:

The mystery of the space vessels—revealed! And the Blue Blur isn't sure he's quite ready for a close encounter of this kind!

That's okay, though, because the vessel's inhabitants aren't quite sure if they're ready for

him, either! All this, plus Monkey Khan returns. But this time, is the Robotnik-created simian cyborg Sonic's friend...or foe? Don't miss a titanic tale we could only title "The Wrath of Khan!"

Written by Karl Bollers, penciled by Michael Higgins, with inks by Jim Amash and Pam Eklund! And don't miss a special SONIC SHUFFLE story based on the new Sega Dreamcast game. It is written by Ken Penders, penciled by Ron Lim, with inks by Jim Amash.



#92



THIS JUST IN!

J.F. GABRIE
EDITOR

As it mentions above, we are interrupting our regularly scheduled Knuckles story to bring you a story of immense proportions. At least it is immense for the inhabitants of a place called Maginary World. Someone or something is destroying this world, and Sonic The Hedgehog is being asked to help by a fairy known only as Lumina. It is a pre-adaptation to the new Sega Dreamcast game, SONIC SHUFFLE, on sale in stores now. The action starts next issue and continues in the game. It's up to you to help Sonic and his friends succeed in their task. Check it out! Next issue's letters page brings the return of the infamous strip by creators Michael Gallagher and Dave Manak. I for one have missed it terribly and can't wait to read a new funny again.

Thanks Sonic fans.

Your editor on the flip side... *IF*

Note: Due to the overwhelming amount of e-mail and snail mail, it is impossible for us to reply personally to each and every message. However, your opinions are important to us and each message will be read. Also, due to space limitations, some correspondence may be edited.

Thanks for understanding!

Send letters to:
SONIC-GRAMS


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PUBLICATIONS, INC.
P.O. BOX #419
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Hey, kids and used-to- be-kids, Sonic-Grams received so much mail from you, we decided to print some:

Dear Sonic-Grams,

Wow! Okay, Sonic the Hedgehog is way past cool! It is hard to believe that I've been a Sonic fan since I was seven years old back in 1992. That was when I watched the TV series, with his roboticized parents and the freedom fighters. But then I moved and started to watch a different SONIC cartoon, with Robotnik in a desert. After that show stopped airing, I discovered the SONIC comic. A friend had bought it and I haven't seen that issue ever since. Then, right before Christmas of 1999, I spotted a totally new SONIC TV show that featured Sonic with a green hedgehog brother (Manic) and pink hedgehog sister (Sonica). Finally, the SEGA Dreamcast game system came out with SONIC ADVENTURE, and now I realize how old Sonic is. Yet, everyone still loves him.

1) Could you tell me who created the Sonic games (I think he may have debuted back in 1985 on a SEGA Gamegear system, but I'm not sure)? 2) How old is Sonic in the comic? 3) Has he gotten older since it began, like a birthday? Just a quick segue: I bought my very first Sonic comic last December. I now own issues #79-84, soon I'll have up through #88, and I hope to keep collecting the series. I ordered issue #1 so I could get a feel for the older back-issues. I guess I always get my comics at the right time, because #79 is the issue before the SEGA adaptation began. My favorite Sonic character was Amy before she aged, but I understand your reasons for aging her. 4) Is Amy Sonic's sister or cousin? 5) When did Sonic get his yellow shoe

buckles? Hey, it's a big improvement on his look! It's great! Sonic's new Dreamcast version is super! Just a few more questions, and then I'll let you go. 6) Why does Robotnik have so many names? I mean, eggman...Julian... Anyways, you guys are doing a great job. I'm glad you still answer questions on the letters' page. I think people like hearing responses to their letters. 7) Do you think you could just have a questions and answers page sometime? Just a suggestion. Anyway, I talk (well, write) too much. Gotta juice!

Sarah Durocher, (age 15)
CANADA

Thanks for taking us on a lovely trip down memory lane, Sarah. Your letter neatly sums up Sonic's popularity and longevity! Good work! Now, on to your questions: 1) The Sonic games were created by video game producer Yuji Naka. 2) Sonic was fifteen years old when the comic started, but he is now sixteen. 3) His birthday was in issue #68. 4) Amy isn't a relative of Sonic's, just a fan! But she is related to Rob o' the Hedge, who appeared alongside Knuckles in SONIC THE HEDGEHOG issues #88-90. 5) Sonic got his yellow buckles in issue #71. 6) We guess just one name wasn't enough for him! Sheesh! 7) That's an awesome idea, Sarah— so awesome, in fact, that one of our upcoming letter pages will consist entirely of Q&A's! Thanks for the suggestion!

Dear Sonic-Grams,

My daughter "Radical" Rosy (age 7) and I (age 35) enjoy the Sonic comic books a great deal. The art is always vibrant and the stories are always intense. Keep up the good work! Here are a few suggestions to make the book even more enjoyable— Me: more Big the Cat. I like the big guy and hope to see more of him soon. Rosy: More Knuckles. With his own title canceled, she hopes Rad Red will be a regular part of the Sonic comics. Finally, we're both confused by some of the characters who pop up from time to time in the comics. Who are they? When did they meet Blue Blur or Rad Red? How are they related to the other characters? Maybe a "family tree" or a flash-back issue to explain who's who would help

Mike and Rosy Griffith
Gouldsboro, PA

We think that our comics are a wonderful way for parents to bond with their kids, Mike. We're glad you and Rosy appreciate our monthly efforts. We've got bad news for you, but good news for her, though— don't expect Big anytime soon, but by now you should know that KNUCKLES THE ECHIDNA is a regular back-up feature in SONIC THE HEDGEHOG! A family tree doesn't sound like such a bad idea, since family has always been one of the book's central themes. Perhaps we'll devote a page from an upcoming issue to a family tree.

Dear Sonic-Grams,

You've got a great comic! Keep it up! I, like most other people, have a few questions about the series. 1) Will Lupe ever be derobotized and restored to normal? (Please, say yes!) 2) Will Queen Alicia ever wake up? Last time we saw her, her stasis tube only had a week's power left. Something's gonna happen, right? 3) Since Sally chose not to be heir to the throne and Elias doesn't want to be heir, what's left? That's all for now. Thanks!

Nick Hardin
St. Mary's, GA

1) You've gotta keep hope alive, Nick! 2) Something did happen— Queen Alicia awoke from her decade-long slumber in issue #89! 3) We'll tell ya what's left— as of last issue, Elias became acting ruler (like it or not).

Dear Sonic crew,

I've been Sonic's numero uno fan since issue #47 (my nickname is even 'Sonic'), and I think it's time that Sonic and Sally hooked up! I know a lot of people would agree with me! How old is Amy Rose? Pleeese print this letter! Oh, yeah, anybody who agrees with me about Sonic and Sally should write in, too!

Jeff 'Sonic' Pennington
Hugeston, WV

We'd keep a very close watch on Sally and Sonic's star-crossed relationship over this next year, if we were you, Jeff! Amy Rose used to be eight years old, but now she's twelve— my, but she's grown!

Well, that's it, gang!

Thanks for all your letters, and be sure to be here next month when we print some more of them!

Until then, just do your best and...

KEEP ON JUICIN'!

Cover illustration by
Patrick Spaziente and Ken
Penders with colors and
separations
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